

Brookings Area United Way

LIVE UNITED

www.brookingsunitedway.org

P.O. Box 750

Brookings, SD 57006

(605) 692-4979

As a supporter of the Brookings Area United Way, we want to keep everyone up to date on how the dollars donated in our community are being used. Enclosed is the Community Impact Kit #4. About every 6 weeks you will receive a community impact kit that will highlight information about the United Way and/or our funded partners. Some information will come in the mail and all of it will come electronically.

This kit includes both electronic and paper resources:

* **Electronic:** Keep an eye out for the email that will arrive around the end of July. It will include an online newsletter that you can forward to those in your business or put the link in your internal communications – you can also print a few copies for the break room or bulletin board.

* **Print:** Poster to hang (let us know if you need more!)

Please let us know if you want this information to go to someone else in the organization and if you need more posters or materials. Call us at 692-4979 or email us at uw@brookingsunitedway.org.

Thank you!



IMPACT PROGRAMS



THE HELPLINE CENTER

The Helpline Center kicked off its new Volunteer Connections program in Brookings on Thursday, July 14, with an open house, ribbon cutting and fun hands-on volunteer projects.

Volunteer projects benefited the Harvest Table, Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity and ReStore, United Living Community, and Brookings Area United Way. Representatives from several different organizations, community groups, and community members all took part in the open house from 10 AM to 2 PM. The Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at 1 P.M.

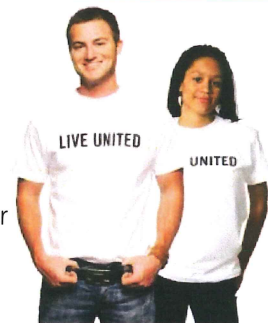


FUN FACTS

- SD ranks 9th in the nation for volunteer hours
- 8 new CASA volunteers in 2016
- CASA currently provides advocacy for 33 children in state and tribal cases, which is 100% of all children in custody
- Adult Ed & Literacy: 17 earned GED's and 26 students completed the ESL program
- 96% say that volunteering enriches their sense of purpose in life

ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAM

Brookings Area United Way helps fund the Adult Education Program. The AEL's mission is to expand the educational opportunities for adult learners by assisting them to acquire basic educational literacy, in return, assisting the learner in becoming a more employable citizen. The organization focuses on individuals interested in obtaining their GED, increasing skills needed to enroll in college, or attaining/retaining employment.



EAST-CENTRAL CASA

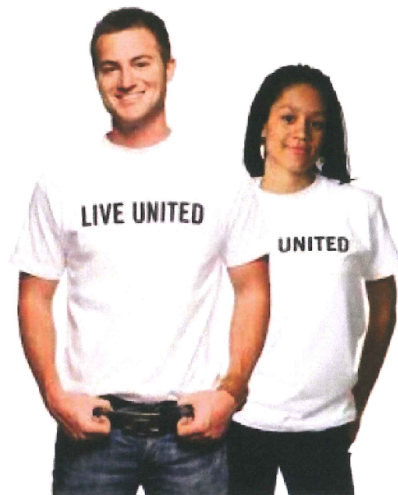
East-Central Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) believes every child who's been abused or neglected deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for its best interest in court, at school and in our community. To accomplish this, CASA educates and empowers diverse community volunteers who ensure each child's needs remain a priority in an over-burdened child welfare system.

The Brookings United Way funds that are given to CASA are used to recruit and train volunteers. The average cost to provide a volunteer for one child for a year is about \$2,500. Dollars are not only used to train volunteers, but are used to make an impact on the children as well.

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The classes are taught by Carla Steffensen and ESL classes are taught by Chad Hauge as well as volunteers from the Brookings community. Call 688-4370 for more information.



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Julie Wermers, Executive Director and Ben Quam, Case Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, are the only two employees. Besides them, CASA is entirely run by volunteers. The volunteers work with and represent the children.

"Once the children have been removed from their home, they are placed with foster parents, then a CASA volunteer is appointed to them," said Wermers.

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If you are interested in volunteering with CASA, call Julie at 697-6106.



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED

United
Way



HELPLINE CENTER INTRODUCES NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM IN BROOKINGS

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"Volunteer Connections is here to serve as the link between individuals who want to volunteer and agencies needing volunteer time and talent," said Amy Ballou, Brookings Volunteer Connections Coordinator. "Brookings County is an incredibly giving community; with many willing to volunteer. The barrier volunteers run into is: who to contact or where to find opportunities. With Volunteer Connections, we can help individuals find that volunteer position and, as a result, help make our nonprofits stronger."

Helpline Center's Volunteer Connections program was established in Brookings through funding from the Brookings Area United Way. Using the Volunteer Connections online database, found at helplinecenter.org, Brookings area nonprofit agencies, human and social services, and government agencies post volunteer needs. The public can search the database to find a volunteer experience that fits their talents and the time they have to offer.

"The partnership between the Brookings Area United Way and Helpline Center's 211 program has been great, and we are excited to expand this partnership to include Volunteer Connections," said Heidi Gullickson, Executive Director of the Brookings Area United Way.



"Through various community conversations, we learned that Brookings area residents wanted a way to easily connect with volunteer opportunities in their communities. Volunteer Connections gives us just that - a comprehensive approach to volunteer recruitment, tracking and engagement."

Contact Amy Ballou by dialing 211 or calling the United Way office at 605-274-1424 or email her at amy@helplinecenter.org